

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending February 23, 1946

# THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN

It is not the Prime Minister we have in mind, nor even the Foreign Secretary—supremely important as they are. It is the British miner, hewing coal for the people and for the very life of the nation. We firmly believe that his is the most important task in all the land, for upon the miner carrying out his task ultimately rests the well-being of every one of his fellow citizens.

UPON the miner and his work depend the life and happiness of the British people, because without coal our industries cannot live and our exports cannot expand. Coal is still the main foundation of our national wealth and prosperity, and it is impossible to over-estimate the worth of the men who go deep down into the darkness to wrest it from the earth.

It is only recently that we have all become fully aware of the tragic situation in our coal-fields, a situation which the Minister of Fuel and Power has described as "containing the elements of industrial disaster." Twenty-two years ago there were 1,172,000 miners in our land; today there are only 694,000 and the yearly output of coal has fallen from 267 million tons to 174 million tons. New coal-fields are needed to replace the decayed ones, and new shafts must be sunk to reach new rich seams. But all the plans and hopes of the coal industry finally depend on the miner. Unless there are miners to man the pits, harvest the coal, and bring it to the surface, then the coal industry's best plans are doomed to failure.

THERE is a war to be won in the depths of the British earth which is making as desperate and urgent a call to the men of Britain as did the Battle of Britain. That glorious fight in the skies above this island has its counterpart now in the struggle far below. The late Studdert Kennedy ennobled the miners' calling in his verse:

*When in the darkest depths the miner striving,  
Feels in his arms the vigour of the Lord,  
Strikes for a Kingdom and his King's arriving,  
Holding his pick more splendid than the sword.*

It is hard from day to day to invest this grim business of dark shafts, stifling tunnels, and destroying dust with the glory of the scintillating sword and the winning of a kingdom. Yet the miner's achievement is no less.

Upon the miner rests the whole fabric of modern life. On his toil depend heat, light, communications, transport, and power. His pick is mightier than the sword. Everyone is in the miner's debt. If he stops working the effect is felt in every home. Without coal Britain would be robbed of its claim to stand amongst the world's great industrial nations.

Now, if it be true that the miner has the most important job of all, it is equally true that he deserves all that skill, ingenuity, and money can do to make his calling one of dignity and honourable reward. He has fought doggedly for his rights, but it is not surprising that a new generation should look for callings less arduous and better rewarded.

But the desertion of the mines spells defeat for Britain as deadly as defeat in war. In this new Battle of Britain victory can be won only by a supreme effort allied to our native resourcefulness.

New machines, new methods, new shafts, and new mines may do much to give us this victory, but, as always, the skill of the human hand and brain are the prime essentials. Britain in her hours of need has never called in vain for the right men. It is for Britain now to show, by unmistakable signs, that she realises that the miner is the most important man of all, and to make demonstrably clear that if the miner will play fair and work hard he will receive fair play and due reward.

## NEW ZEALAND'S OWN COMMONWEALTH Time Pedals On

A FORTNIGHTLY air mail and passenger service between New Zealand and Rarotonga provides a new link between the brown-skinned Maori people of New Zealand, who number about 100,000, and their kinsmen numbering about 14,000 who live far to the north-east in the Cook Islands.

This scattered group of volcanic and coral islands and islets has its administrative capital at Rarotonga, a mountainous island of 16,000 acres which supports over 5000 natives. Rarotonga is 1800 miles from Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, or about as far as Newfoundland, the Empire's oldest colony, is from London. Rarotonga was the original home of the Polynesian voyagers who sailed south to discover and colonise New Zealand between the times of England's Alfred the Great and Edward III.

Seven hundred miles farther north than Rarotonga are the Northern Cook Islands, a group of isolated atolls which support about 2000 happy islanders on a few thousand acres of coral sand which grows little else but the valuable coconut tree. Here, as in the other islands of the Cook group, flies the blue ensign of New Zealand. During the war years many fine airfields have

been built in the tiny islands of the Pacific, and now it is possible to fly to islands which previously were reached only by ships. The new air service between New Zealand and Rarotonga stops on the way at the British colony of Fiji, the mandated territory of Western Samoa, and the little island kingdom of Tonga.

New Zealand, the most distant portion of the great British Commonwealth of Nations, has her own little Pacific Commonwealth over which the blue ensign flies and whose native people are linked together by a common native language.

## MR AGBOKPOR LIKES ENGLAND

MR AMMAH MENSAH AGBOKPOR is probably the first visitor from the Gold Coast that the railwaymen of Hull and Darlington have ever seen; but he has settled down among them for two years' training as a traffic inspector on the L.N.E.R.

His studies are part of the general policy of the Railway Administration of the Gold Coast to prepare African officers for promotion to appointments at present held by Europeans.

Mr Agbokpor likes England. He says, "I felt a bit at sea and stranded for somewhere to lodge

THE purchase of two bicycles has broken a small link with the past in Kenya.

In the north of the Colony, on the edge of the great desert country of Turkana, the chief means of communication for generations has been by runners. It was a runner who carried the mail to a District Commissioner on safari; it was by runner that the Chief or Headman would get his instructions.

But now the last two old men to act as runners, both of whom have had many years' service in the Kenya Government, have been pensioned off, and in future the mails will go by bicycle.

when I arrived. But Mr and Mrs E. G. Thwaites of Bank Top Station took me in although I was unknown to them and a 'foreigner' at that. I cannot say how much their kindness has meant to me, and the same applies to my present hosts Mr and Mrs A. W. Drake of New Village Road, Cottingham. When I go back I shall tell my people what English hospitality really is. I have been charmed and impressed by the hospitable way I have been received and made welcome wherever I have worked."

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## Four Jolly Dutch Girls

These happy young Hollanders in national costumes with bright woollen scarves are setting out for a skating spin on the frozen canal at Volendam, near Amsterdam.

## A CAPE MALAY SCRIPTURE EXAM

ONE of our South African readers has sent us a book by Mr I. D. du Plessis, of the University of Cape Town, in which the author deals with the history of a little-known people of the British Commonwealth, the Malays of the Cape Province. It must come as a surprise to many CN readers that there are any Malays in South Africa at all. They are the descendants of Malays who in the 17th century were taken there by the Dutch from Java, Sumatra, and elsewhere in the East Indies, either as slaves or as political exiles.

In Cape Town the Malays have long occupied their own picturesque quarter of the city where they have built their own mosques—for they are devout Mohammedans. There are about 35,000 of them in Cape Province. Their everyday language is Afrikaans, which their ancestors learned from the old Cape Dutch, but Arabic is the language of the Mosque, and it is in Arabic that all Malay boys have to pass a difficult scripture examination for which they have to learn many chapters of the Koran.

Mr du Plessis gives a descrip-

tion of one of these somewhat queer examinations which, though exacting for the entrants, end in a glorious feast. The examination is one of the chief ceremonies of the Moslem year and is called Tamat (Completion of the Koran). The one he describes took place before the war. The boys, aged between nine and fourteen, clad in Eastern dress and turbans, went in a procession to the Mosque accompanied by young men. Inside they found 400 men and women—their families, friends, and relatives all waiting eagerly to hear the boys individually recite chapters from the Koran.

The test was a difficult one, for each boy had to be word perfect and every phrase had to be spoken in the purest Arabic—all something of an ordeal for a nervous boy. But outside in the yard a great feast was being cooked; simmering in several huge cauldrons was a mixture of 300 eggs, 210 lbs of meat, 182 lbs of rice, 50 lbs of potatoes and onions, Indian cooking fat, cinnamon, curry, and other spices.

When at last the priest had passed every boy the rejoicing of the audience was boundless and everyone started on the feast.



# THE NETHERLANDS AND INDONESIA

## Russia Goes to the Polls

IN the not very distant future Malay delegates from the Netherlands East Indies may join their cousins from the Philippine Commonwealth in the Assembly of the United Nations.

This probability is set forth in the proposals which Dr Van Mook, Lieutenant Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, handed on behalf of his Queen and Government to Dr Sjahrir, the head of the Indonesian national Cabinet formed in Java. The meeting took place at Batavia at the house of Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, who has been sent to Java to help to promote peace.

The Netherlands Government seek to solve a tense situation due, in the main, to the conquest of Java by the Japanese—a situation in which British forces, ordered there by the Supreme Command to set free the victims of Japanese tyranny, have become involved. How involved and at what an unlooked-for cost to themselves has been made clear by the controversy on the matter before the Security Council of Uno.

The presence of the British in Java, however, has small significance compared with the very big issue which the Dutch and the Indonesians have to settle between themselves. For the issue is that of the future happiness and prosperity of some 60 million people overseas and some nine million in Holland.

Of the sixty millions, over two-thirds inhabit Java. The striking fact is that the population a century ago did not exceed ten millions, so that Dutch rule has undoubtedly brought prosperity. During last century this rule was firm but on the whole just, and there was one excellent point—Europeans made their permanent homes there.

## The World is Short of Food

THE United Nations today are faced with another war, a grim though bloodless one. It is the war against hunger and even starvation in part of the world.

As a result of the destruction wrought by enemy forces over many wide territories of Europe and Asia, and the unfortunate addition of droughts to humanity's wartime ordeals, the world in the first six months of this year will have to do with five million tons of wheat less and two million tons of rice less than it needs.

In a recent broadcast, Sir Ben Smith, our Minister of Food, said this means that unless relief is brought to the worst-hit countries there will be starvation, and men and women will die and children who have done us no harm will grow up weaklings and cripples.

Britain will play her part in this struggle. Our bread is to be restored to its wartime standard, and as a consequence there will be less foodstuffs for animals and so eventually less eggs, bacon, and poultry. We shall import no rice yet awhile so as to help the hungry peoples of the East. We must submit to a cut in cooking fat because supplies of ground nuts, from which it was hoped to extract oil, are not available. The loss

In the past 25 years a large measure of self-government has been established, more than half the members of the Volksraad, or legislative assembly, being Indonesians elected by the local councils, while local government is almost entirely carried on by Indonesian civil servants under a Dutch Regent.

The Japanese invasion caused a complete break between the Home and Colonial Governments, and a proclamation by Queen Wilhelmina in 1942 never reached the Indonesians. This proclamation proposed that all Dutch territories should be reconstructed as a Commonwealth based on complete partnership, every part handling its own internal affairs.

The present proposals go very much further. The Netherlands Government offer to do all they can to enable the peoples of Indonesia to decide fully their political destiny, holding that their true interests lie in the voluntary continuation of "one realm in which the Netherlands, Indonesia, Surinam (Dutch Guiana) and Curaçao will participate with complete self-reliance and freedom of conduct for each part regarding its internal affairs."

Among these, Indonesia will form a Commonwealth with full self-government, subject only to the condition that she observes certain standards now recognised everywhere as essential.

A new Constitution, then, is to be evolved by discussion, and when it is in force the Netherlands Government undertake to propose the admission of Indonesia to the United Nations.

of dried eggs is the biggest blow of all, but Sir Ben Smith held out the hope of resuming their importation later this year.

Sir Ben Smith has also declared that our food shortages will have to last some time, and he outlined the Government's plans for the continued control of our food supply so as to keep down the price of essential foods and ensure adequate supplies both of homegrown and imported foodstuffs.

Meanwhile, there are encouraging features in this gloomy outlook. Australia, Canada, New Zealand are striving to send us more food. The U.S., too, is taking her place on the world's food front and President Truman has announced a nine-point plan to meet the crisis. It is heartening to know that the American Government has banned the use of grain in the manufacture of alcohol and beer. In Britain, too, distillers of whisky will for the time being get no barley—"Not a grain," said Sir Ben Smith.

It is indeed disappointing that the return of better times is so long delayed. That they will return, however, is absolutely certain, and meanwhile we in Britain shall not flinch from the continued sacrifices asked of us in the Cause of Humanity.

LAST week ninety-six per cent of the electors in USSR went to the polls to vote for 1200 deputies for the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet—the Council of Nationalities and the Council of the Union.

This was probably the biggest poll in the world's history.

From the Baltic coast in the west right across northern Europe and Siberia to Kamchatka in north-east Asia, a hundred million people of 18 and over, and of numerous nationalities, were entitled to vote. Candidates for the elections were nominated some weeks before, and by public discussions and agreements between the organisations backing the various candidates these were reduced to one for each seat by the day of the elections. All candidates on this occasion were members of the Communist and non-party bloc, and so the elections became a vote of confidence in the regime which has steered the USSR so successfully through the past troublesome years.

In some of the 16 republics, army garrisons, and other special groups outside the Soviet borders, collecting the ballot papers was a problem, and horse-drawn sleighs, planes, and even camels were used to bring them from remote places to the counting depots.

## COAL CRISIS

THE Minister of Fuel and Power, appealing to the mining industry, has stated that unless coal production is stepped up very considerably our position might become very dangerous.

Mr Shinwell explained how much our country depended on coal, not only for our homes but for housing, food, industry generally, and for our trade with other nations. If we could supply Argentina, Eire, and Denmark with more coal, we could receive more food from those countries. Similarly, our inability to provide Sweden with coal means that we are unable to import her timber for housing. Some of our own factories were being slowed down.

This most serious falling-off of the output of the most vital and essential of all our commodities Mr Shinwell attributed to absenteeism (due in the main, he said, to 15 to 20 per cent of the miners); to men not producing up to the pre-war standard; and to men leaving the industry before they should.

## HQ of the Book World

THE National Book League, which has the support of many distinguished authors, publishers, and others in the literary professions, has its headquarters at No 7 Albermarle Street, Piccadilly, a fine Georgian house which was once the meeting-place of one of our earliest book clubs—the Roxburghes, founded in 1812.

The house was damaged in the 1940 blitz, but it is to be restored, and the Poet Laureate has just launched an appeal for £15,000, not only for its restoration but for providing exhibition and lecture halls and a big library—a splendid new London book centre.

# WORLD NEWS REEL

To make her Navy up to 40 ships China has received 13 warships from Britain. They total 12,000 tons.

Interference with RAF short-wave radio by sunspots, together with bad weather in the Mediterranean, made it unsafe recently for RAF troop-carrying planes to take off from the Far East, India, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean. In the Mediterranean radio messages were not being received beyond ten miles.

The food authorities in Calcutta are confident that there will not be a second famine in Bengal. Huge dumps of rice, totalling 330,000 tons, have been established throughout Bengal.

A party of 12 French explorers are planning to follow the exact route taken by Alexander the Great in his march across Asia Minor to Turkestan and the Indus. They intend to carry out geographical, historical, and archaeological research and hope to accomplish in 11 months the journey that took Alexander 11 years.

The Cutty Sark, the Duke of Westminster's steam-yacht which during the war was used as a destroyer, is now to be moored

near Blackfriars Bridge and used by the Jewish Marine League for training Jewish boys from all parts of Europe who wish to become sailors.

A new comet moving into the constellation of the Great Bear has been discovered by a Dutch priest astronomer, Father Mathaeus Himmer, working at the Papal Observatory in Rome.

THE largest number of passengers ever to cross the Atlantic in one plane recently flew in a Transcontinental and Western Air Line Constellation plane from New York to Paris. With the crew of 7 there were 45 persons on board, plus a cargo of penicillin.

A 1000-mile-long desert road from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean is to be constructed.

The freedom of Missolonghi, the Greek town where Byron died, is to be conferred on Mr Ernest Bevin.

The flag flown on Sir John Franklin's sledge in his search for the North-West Passage, and found 12 years later by Lieutenant Hobson, has been presented to Tasmania, of which country Franklin was once Governor.

## HOME NEWS REEL

MR VICTOR WELCH of Bristol, a bachelor of 40, goes out on four evenings every week to look after the children of parents who wish to have an evening out together.

Mr George Arliss, the celebrated actor who has died at 76, first acted when he was 18, taking the part of the jailer in Vidocq, the French Jonathan Wild. He took the leading parts in many famous talking films, notably Disraeli, Richelieu, and Voltaire.

Carpets are being made again at the Wilton carpet factory near Salisbury. During the war the factory made kitbags and tarpaulins.

Free travel to school for children attending county, voluntary, and day continuation schools in the LCC area has been recommended. It will cost £90,000 a year.

Miss Italia Conti, famous as the founder of a school for training children for the stage, has died at 73. For over 30 years she produced Where the Rainbow Ends.

POLICEMEN at Preston, Lancashire, are in their spare time building safety gates to prevent children running thoughtlessly into the streets.

Valuable masterpieces were recently taken from their wartime hiding-place behind a secret panel at Piccadilly Circus Tube Station and returned to the Tate Gallery.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

THE Scout Silver Cross has been awarded to Acting Patrol-Leader Robert Gallop, of the 1st Stony Stratford Group, for gallantry in rescuing a brother Scout from drowning in a river at Wolverton, Bucks.

Scouts of the West Ham (Plaistow) Local Association raised nearly £16,000 for the Red Cross by organising collections for the Penny-a-Week Fund. Most of the street collectors were parents of Scouts.

A former Scoutmaster has presented the Torquay Boy Scouts Association with a flag-staff to be erected at their new camping-ground in memory of Torquay Scouts who fell in the war.

A national college of horology for technical education and research in the art of making clocks is to be opened at the Northampton Polytechnic at Finsbury, London.

A girl conjurer, aged 13, Madeleine Blatter, recently took part in a conjuring performance presented by the London Society of Magicians.

Field-Marshal Montgomery's new title is Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

A baby boy in Broadstairs has been christened Uno. His surname is Hurry.

THE LCC Education Committee have adopted a report suggesting that entrance examinations for secondary schools should be based on far broader grounds than a written test.

Manchester University is to have a Department of Preventive Dentistry and Research.

For the first time since 1939 the Huddersfield Choir are to visit London. They will sing Beethoven's Mass in D at an Albert Hall Concert on March 3 to be given in aid of the Henry Wood Memorial Fund.

If a suggestion of the NFU is adopted, Pluto, the petrol pipe-line to the Continent, will become a water main supplying Romney Marsh villages.

The Chief Scout has awarded the Silver Cross to 11-years-old Daniel Milne, of the 6th Leith Troop, for his gallantry in rescuing a child from drowning in Newhaven Harbour.

In five years half-a-million lads have been members of the Air Training Corps, and the Corps has provided more than 150,000 trained cadets for the RAF and Fleet Air Arm.

The Halifax Battalion of the Boys Brigade has a new sports trophy for inter-company competition. It perpetuates the memory of an old boy of the 6th Company who gave his life in war, Sergeant Hanson Turner, V.C.



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## THIS KIND WORLD

ONE of the world's biggest hearts belongs to Miss Dorothy Kerin, authoress of *The Living Touch*. Miss Kerin felt how tragic it was that children who had lost their parents might also lose the happiness of real home life and affection. So Miss Kerin adopted nine babies orphaned by the war. She would have liked to adopt more, except that then each child would not have so much chance of the individual love and attention children need.

The babies have now all grown into happy children, all legally bearing Miss Kerin's name, and living in her lovely old house overlooking Ealing Common, West London. Eldest of the happy little family are Faith and Mary, twins of nearly six; then come more twins, John and Francis, aged five, followed by Anne and Elizabeth, four-and-a-half, and Peter, Priscilla, and Philip, all three-year-olds.

The children have their own percussion band and their very special pets in Nigger and Rufus, two cocker spaniels. They are going to start lessons with a governess at home, and later on Miss Kerin hopes to send the boys to public schools.

## MALVOLIO IN TAILS!

MALVOLIO in butler's tails and black tie, Viola wearing slacks, Sir Toby Belch in a white tea-planter's suit—these are some of the novelties in a "free" production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* given by the Atherton Collieries' Dramatic Society. Three miners, a shot-firer, mining students, a blacksmith, clerks, and a Bevin Boy are among the cast of this unusual production.

Mr Gordon Nicholls, formerly of the Birmingham Repertory Company, who was responsible for the production, felt that Shakespeare modernised would have a greater appeal for his Lancashire audience. So the characters wore ordinary clothes, complete with pockets. The performance was a complete success, and it may be that more modern versions of the classics will be presented both on the amateur and professional stage in the near future.

## SWANSEA DOCKS IMPROVEMENT

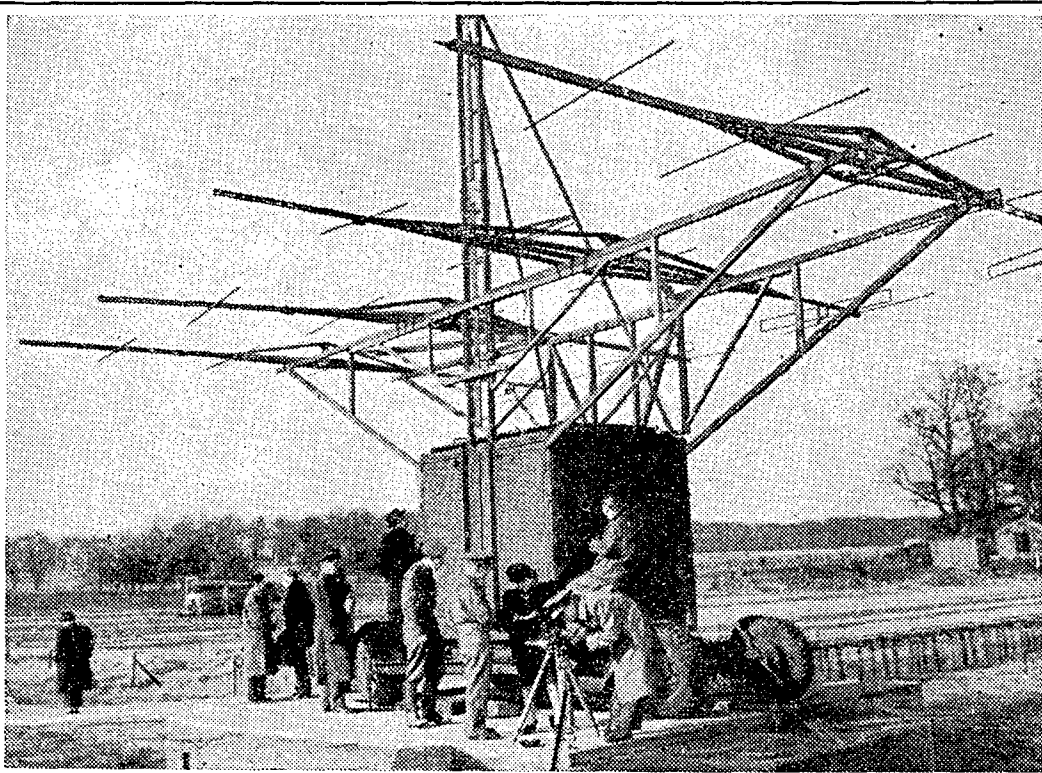
ONE of the first GWR improvement plans for the South Wales ports is the re-equipment of a general cargo berth at King's Dock, Swansea.

This berth, which is 820 feet long and has excellent road and rail facilities, has recently been provided with six new three-ton electric cranes at a cost of nearly £40,000, and, with the two modern six-ton cranes already there, is well provided with quayside cranes, and capable of catering for all normal cargo traffic.

## Flowers in Crannied Walls

It is exactly a century ago this month since John Henry Newman, scholar and one-time Protestant divine, left Oxford, a few weeks after entering the Roman Catholic Church, of which, later in life, he was to become a Cardinal. Looking back afterwards on the event, he remembered chiefly the veteran scholar who had been his private tutor, and flowers that grew wild in walls of his College.

Referring to his old College—Trinity—Newman wrote, "There used to be much snapdragon growing in the walls opposite my freshman's room when I was there, and I had for years taken it as the emblem of my own perpetual residence, even unto death, in my University." Newman departed, but the flowers, seeding every year, lived on—flowers in a crannied wall, such as Tennyson wrote of.



## Studying the Sun's Spots

At this former anti-aircraft radar station in Richmond Park, Surrey, Professor Sir Edward Appleton, Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been making a study of the effects of sunspot activity on radio and radar apparatus.

## THE WRONG SHOP

SEVENTY-THREE years ago Edward Fount went into ancient Bath to answer an advertisement; a certain shop wanted a boy. But he walked into the wrong shop.

This was the sequel. Edward was taken on by the wrong shop, and he remained in employment there until quite recently, when he retired. The wrong shop had proved to be the right shop!

## A RECORD GOES TO THE WEST INDIES

A CRICKET record set up in England has just been broken in the West Indies.

Batting for Barbados against Trinidad, C. L. Walcott and F. M. Worrell put on 574 runs for the fourth-wicket, beating the record of 555 runs made by the Yorkshire first-wicket pair, Herbert Sutcliffe and Percy Holmes against Essex in 1932. The West Indies score also broke the fourth-wicket record made two years ago when Worrell again figured in the partnership, making 308 out of the 502 scored. This young batsman, who is only 21, is said to have much the same power of concentration as our own record-holder, Len Hutton, and his batting obviously puts him well in the line for Test honours.

Another record made in this match was the 791 runs scored before a bowler took a wicket, the two batsmen who did lose their wickets, both being run out.

## CHURCHILL HALL

A GIFT from an admirer of Mr Churchill as "the architect of victory" is to be used for the benefit of the men who carried out the architect's plans.

A mansion near Sevenoaks in Kent, Kippington Court, was given by Mr Charles Alfred Hopkins to Mr and Mrs Winston Churchill as a mark of appreciation. Mr and Mrs Churchill have now passed on the gift to the British Legion for use as a rehabilitation centre and convalescent home. At the request of Mr Hopkins Kippington Court is to be renamed Churchill Hall. There will be accommodation for between 60 and 70 men in need of convalescence.

## HOLIDAY SHIP

FROM their shipyard at Birkenhead Messrs Cammell Laird have just launched *Mona's Queen*, the second of three new ships for the Isle of Man's holiday traffic. Rudders, both fore and aft, have been fitted so as to make it easier for her to enter Douglas Harbour.



## Sunspot Study

Sir Edward Appleton examining the sun through a telescope attached to the radar apparatus seen above

## PERFECT PLASTIC

THE "perfect plastic," a very jealously guarded secret discovery, is now being used by the Admiralty for the outer casings of submarine batteries. This new plastic, which looks and feels like candle wax, is unbreakable, non-inflammable, heat-resisting, waterproof, and shock-absorbing. It is much lighter than wood, and can be sawn just like wood.

## STUDYING BRITISH MUSIC

MR SIXTEN EHRLING, a young Swedish musician, has arrived in this country as holder of a British Council scholarship, to study British music. He will, in particular, attend orchestral rehearsals to learn about methods used in conducting different types of orchestras. Recently, Mr Ehrling was conductor and soloist at performances of Bliss's *Piano Concerto* in Stockholm and Gothenburg. He conducted the first performance of *The Beggar's Opera* at Stockholm, last year. He has frequently broadcast in Sweden.

Mr Ehrling was at the Stockholm Conservatoire for four years, from 1936, studying organ, piano, and conducting. In 1940, he was attached to the Royal Opera House, Stockholm, as sub-conductor, and the following year was awarded the Jenny Lind Scholarship. He then served in the Army and later toured Finland, Denmark, and Sweden.

## The Best-Dressed Boy in Town

A CANADIAN member of the Friends Ambulance Unit in China tells how one day, when he and a friend were having supper at the wayside during a rest from driving with a lorry-load of medical supplies, "we noticed one naked little beggar who seemed more destitute than the rest."

Thereupon he and his fellow-worker decided to clothe the child. "I pulled off my under-

## BUS FOR BABIES

A MOTOR-BUS specially fitted to carry mothers with babies and prams is operating between Newtown and Geelong, about 45 miles from Melbourne, Australia.

Besides the driver, the bus is staffed by a young hostess. The idea was formulated by the woman co-proprietor of the buses, who had one of the company's wartime austerity-model buses converted into a nursery on wheels. The centre was cleared to make room for prams, leaving only wall seats all round.

The driver's seat is on a swivel so that it can be swung out of the way as prams are run in and out. Painters put nursery rhymes along the inside walls and a seven-foot panel of *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarfs* across the back. The bus will take a dozen prams.

Mrs Bender, who is co-proprietor, said: "The pram bus will not pay. It is just a little service I want to give." But the idea is catching on. Melbourne Tramways Board is launching a service of special buses to some of Melbourne's suburbs, carrying only mothers, children, and folding push-chairs.

We should like to see the idea spread to the Mother Country.

## A NEW MINE

A NEW colliery is to be sunk in the Machrihanish district of South Kintyre in Scotland; two seams are being opened up there by the Glasgow Iron and Steel Company.

In a few weeks development work will be started and the company hope with the assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power to build up one of the most modern collieries in the country. This would create work for a minimum of 200 families in a district where the unemployment figures were higher than in any other district in Britain between the two world wars.

It is estimated that the two seams will give an output of roughly 1000 tons of coal daily and that the entire colliery contains 63 million tons of coal. It will employ 400 men within the next three years.

## LOCO LIGHTS

MANY of the express passenger locomotives on our railways are now being fitted with electrical equipment. Every engine will in due course be fitted with electric headlamps, cab-lights, and lighting to flood the driving wheels and other parts for periodic road inspection.

A British railway official has stated that all locomotives are expected to have electric headlamps soon. They will replace the old-fashioned oil-burning headlamps which the fireman now has to place in position before every journey, and they will thus save much time, labour, and money.





### A New Life

This sturdy young ploughwoman, Mrs Linda Ossington, was a railway clerk and lived in Manchester until she married a Canadian Serviceman and went with him to his farm near Granby, Quebec. There she has settled down happily to her new—and very different—life.

## A NEW ALADDIN'S LAMP

A NEW wonder lamp has been used in the world's most remarkable new battleship, the Vanguard. The electric bulbs, instead of being made of glass, are of a moulded, transparent, glass-like resin, and are absolutely unbreakable.

The plastic electric lamp is one of the latest achievements of this amazing new industry, which turns acetylene gas into the insulating material for electric cables, converts carbolic acid into furniture, and works as many changes as those of the modern alchemist in converting one substance into another.

Behind this splendid feature of the new warship lies a great romance. A generation ago amateur photographers heard of a newsensitive paper—"gaslight" paper—for printing their snapshots, which could be worked in the light of an ordinary room, and today millions of amateur snapshots are printed on this paper. Dr Baekeland was the inventor of this gaslight paper, and

with part of the fortune he made out of it he experimented with plastics. Eventually he made the first really commercial article, which we know today as Bakelite.

Plastics were in use for many years, however, before the white transparent materials similar to glass were discovered. Celluloid and cellulose acetate are, of course, old friends, but the plastics from which a real glass substitute can be made must be of the "thermo-setting" type, which means that once moulded to the desired shape it must remain unalterable. Of such materials are the unbreakable spectacle lenses which are being used on an increasing scale.

The thermo-setting type of plastic can have enormous strength, and as it can be made in the form of perfectly flat sheets or can be moulded into the most accurate lens shapes, it can be readily understood what a competitor it will prove to glass by reason of its unbreakable nature.

## Shop Windows For Britain

MR J. ARTHUR RANK, the well-known British film magnate, is well aware of the influence of the cinema, and, in collaboration with the Board of Trade, he has created an organisation to promote the showing, all over the world, of British films representing British character and British achievement, and telling of the part which British trade is taking in the building of a prosperous and peaceful new world.

Some of Mr Rank's cinema associates have travelled far and

wide to open up new territories, and to develop old ones, in Canada, Australia, India, China, Egypt, the Middle East, and many European countries. It is estimated that there are 90,000 cinemas in the world, and Mr Rank says that a great many of them can become "shop windows for Britain."

In addition to its enormous propaganda value, Mr Rank thinks that his plan ought to bring in millions of pounds in foreign currency, which we need so much.

## A SCHOOL ENGINE FOR A SCHOOL TRAIN

WHEN the boys of St Lawrence College returned recently to their own school premises at Ramsgate after six years of evacuation, their train was drawn by an engine named after their college, St Lawrence. It is one of the class of Southern Railway engines bearing the names of famous public schools on nameplates below the boiler. The engine, like the boys, had been through hardships in the war, for it received a direct hit from a bomb but was rebuilt and put in running order.

One of its former drivers, Tom Douglas, now retired, travelled on the train to talk to the boys about their locomotive namesake which he had driven for many years. Indeed, the St Lawrence engine was also known among the other drivers as "Douglas's engine," for he had grown to love it and care for it as a man does his horse. He is the last of a family who have been engine drivers for more than 100 years, and possesses the Southern Railway's Gold Medal for fifty years' service.

February 23, 1946

## Telling the People

Press, Parliament, and People, by Francis Williams (Heinemann, 8s 6d).

IN this absorbing book of wartime disclosures and peacetime hopes, Mr Francis Williams, now the Adviser on Public Relations to the Prime Minister, has written one of the shrewdest and best books on information and how to present it. He begins by describing for the first time the confusion and difficulties that beset the early days of the Ministry of Information, from the famous night when Fleet Street newspaper offices were occupied by the police to the day when all was ready to release the news of D Day.

Mr Williams also surveys the relationships between the Press and the People and the Press and Parliament. He again states the case for a free Press, untrammelled by controls of any kind, remembering that service to the public is its first aim.

The story of his wartime experiences is a sufficient warning to those who might sometimes think that a censorship of the Press would be useful. The wartime censorship was entirely a voluntary one on the part of the Press, and Mr Williams gives many instances of how highly-important secrets were most loyally kept.

In particular, the story of how the news of the Combined Operations raids was handled without the Germans once getting wind of what the place or purpose was is an example of integrity on the part of soldiers and pressmen.

### Telling Britain's Story

Mr Williams is specially concerned about telling us all the news that can be told because he believes that the British people only get nervous and apprehensive when they are being kept in the dark. A democracy thrives on information and the Press is the prime agent of making those disclosures which instruct, inform, and even entertain.

Furthermore, this book shows the need to tell Britain's story and to expound Britain's policy in America. The story of how this was done effectively at the San Francisco Conference, even to the admiration of American pressmen, is an encouraging sign for what we might do again and again. Mr Williams, moreover, is careful to draw a distinction between propaganda and information, asking only that as a nation we shall be properly equipped abroad to tell our story and to allow other people to draw their own conclusions.

That is the best way to educate a democracy—to give the true facts undoctored and to allow those facts to stand the test of time and criticism.

## Kind Irish Hearts

SINCE VE Day Eire has sent more than £1,000,000 worth of foodstuffs and clothing to the stricken countries of Europe. The gifts included cattle, bacon, butter, dried milk, cheese, sugar, baby food, and blankets.

The Netherlands received £382,844 worth; France, £166,304; Belgium, £178,403; and Italy, £229,343. Through the International Red Cross £233,837 worth were distributed in other European countries.

## THE EDITOR'S TABLE

### HOME SERVICE

SPEAKING of the Government's decision to set up a National Institute of Houseworkers, Mr Isaacs, Minister of Labour, said recently, "The first and most important object of the Institute will be to raise the prestige of domestic employment..."

In this wise saying he touched the root of the problem of domestic service; for while any of the old-fashioned contempt for it persists, our self-respecting people of today will shun it. Years ago "common soldiers" were considered a degraded class—until their services were urgently needed. That stupid prejudice has now quite vanished; the prejudice against domestic service must go the same way. It is an honourable form of occupation essential to civilisation.

### Plain Speaking

ONCE again that wise old-world statesman Field-Marshal Smuts has come forward with some sound philosophy.

Referring to the disputes about Greece, and other matters, at the United Nations meetings, Field-Marshal Smuts told the South African Parliament that nothing was better, as things were today, than plain, straight speaking. At Geneva, he said, everything had been settled behind closed doors, under a system of trying to cover up differences, and a false atmosphere had been created which did more harm than good. What had happened in London, he declared, would not lead to danger but to just the opposite.

Cool plain speech is a sound means of clearing up and removing misunderstandings. Any pretence that difficulties do not exist thwarts healthy relations.

## CARRY ON

### Contentment

WHILE I can share the glories of the day,  
The peace and silence of the star-lit night;  
While I still have the strength to work and play, [delight.  
Then life will be a rapture of

While I have air to breathe, a bite to eat,  
A place where I can shelter from the rain;  
A friend or two to greet me in the street, [complain.  
Then I shall never murmur or

While I have ears to hear and eyes to see,  
A mind with all the world at peace and rest;  
And faith and hope in all that has to be:  
Then I shall always count myself as blest.

E. Oxburgh

The Children's

## FOR THE P

THE choice of a corner of Connecticut of America, as the settler the United Nations, gives added vision and poet of New England. They were written nearly a century as an invocation to the men and scribed on the portals of Uno's home.

Lend, once again, that holy song a tongue, [sung,  
Which the glad angels of the Advent  
Their cradle-anthem for the  
Saviour's birth, [earth!  
Glory to God, and peace unto the  
Through the mad discord send  
that calming word  
Which wind and rain on wild  
Gennesareth heard,  
Lift in Christ's name His Cross  
against the Sword!  
Not vain the vision which the  
prophets saw,

## Health of Uni

DOCTORS are disturbed at the serious amount of sickness among university students.

In a recent report the Royal College of Physicians says that many University authorities provide insufficient facilities for students who are ill, and give little attention to matters of diet and lodgings. All the universities, the Royal College thinks, must accept a greater responsibility for the health of

## Under the Ed

THE first task of a General home from Germany was to buy a felt hat. Liked the feel of it.

A FAMOUS man says he often stands in cinema queues. Goes in for it.

SOME people like to leave good impressions. They should walk in the mud.

A DOCTOR usually advises patients to take things easily. Particularly medicine.

PETER  
WANT!  
KNC



If free  
are sun-

## Benefits

THE natural homage which such a creature as Man bears to an infinitely wise and good God, is a firm Reliance on Him for the blessings and conveniences of life, and an habitual Trust in Him for deliverance out of all such dangers and difficulties as may befall us. The man who always lives in this disposition of mind, when he reflects upon his own weakness and imperfection, comforts him-

## THE HUM

I NEVER loved ambitiously to climb,  
Or thrust my hand too far into the fire. [thing;  
To be in heaven sure is a blessed  
But, Atlas-like, to prop heaven on one's back  
Cannot but be more labour than delight.  
Such is the state of men in honour placed:



## FACEMAKERS

ticut, one of the New England ing for the permanent home of interest to these lines by that land, John Greenleaf Whittier. ago, but they might well serve women of Uno. Let them be in- e, the new headquarters of Peace.

*Skirting with green the fiery waste of war,  
Through the hot sand-gleam, loom- ing soft and calm  
On the sky's rim, the fountain- shading palm.  
Still lives for Earth, which fiends so long have trod,  
The great hope resting on the truth of God—  
Evil shall cease and Violence pass away,  
And the tired world breathe free through a long Sabbath day.*

## Undergraduates

their students, including medical examinations after entry, medi- cal nursing care, inspection of lodgings, and improved diet.

Most undergraduates are very fit and virile young people, but nobody will deny that a uni- versity should have available at least the medical facilities which exist in public boarding schools and in industry, for a great deal depends upon the young people who study at our universities.

## It's Table

**PUCK** MANY people don't think. And they don't think they don't.

**ENGLISH** shipbuilders have ships in their blood, says a writer. Blood vessels.

**P**LOVERS are to be made of aluminium. A bright idea.

**A** MAN has a dog that likes to sit on fences. Gets on with anybody.

**WHAT** is the most stir- ring time in his- tory? Tea time.

## of Faith

self with the contemplation of those Divine attributes which are employed for his safety and welfare.

He is not sensible of his own want of strength when he knows that his Helper is Almighty. In short, the person who has a firm Trust in the Supreme Being, is powerful in His power, wise by His wisdom, happy by His happiness.

*Joseph Addison*

## BLE MAN

They are gold vessels made for servile uses;  
High trees that keep the weather from low houses,  
But cannot shield the tempest from themselves.

I love to dwell betwixt the hills and dales, [envied,  
Neither to be so great as to be Nor yet so poor the world should pity me. *Thomas Nash*

## Brains Banish Barriers

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM SLIM has been telling something of the difficulties met and overcome by his Army in Burma.

When roads were needed and there were no materials they set up brick-kilns and made brick-surface roads. Where this was impossible they beat down the earth and covered it with hessian impregnated with bitumen as protection from the monsoon rains. A serious situation arising from a shortage of parachutes for dropping supplies was overcome by making their own parachutes of hessian.

When his army gained the Chindwin River they found the Japanese had taken or sunk all the boats. But there was the forest, and boats were made to carry 500 tons of stores daily.

In fact, said Sir William, there was only one commodity they had in adequate quantity and up-to-date form—their brains!

And the Fourteenth Army proved, to the Japanese and the jungle alike, that by the proper use of brains all difficulties can be overcome.

## Bomb Disposal Heroes

SINCE the end of the war last August another little war, which for those in it may be equally deadly, still goes on—against unexploded bombs.

Recently a gallant little party of Royal Engineers risked their lives to make harmless a 1000-lbs bomb buried under the lake in St James's Park, London.

In many parts of Europe, and in Asia, too, this patient struggle against an evil legacy of war continues and many men have given their lives to make the earth safe for human tread and the seas safe for peacetime navigators. Their sacrifice should not be forgotten.

## JUST AN IDEA

*As William Penn pointed out, Men must be governed by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants.*

## HIDDEN TALENTS

NATURE, seldom profuse, and seldom niggardly, has distributed her gifts more equally than she is generally supposed to have done. Education and situation make the great difference. Culture improves, and occasions elicit, natural talents. I make no doubt but that there are potentially, if I may use that pedantic word, many Bacons, Lockes, Newtons, Caesars, Cromwells, and Marlboroughs at the plough-tail, behind counters, and, perhaps, even among the nobility; but the soil must be cultivated, and the seasons favourable, for the fruit to have all its spirit and flavour. *Earl of Chesterfield*

## The Lord Giveth Strength

THEY that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. *Isaiah*

## Pioneer of Savings Banks

THE Scots are traditionally a thrifty people, and it seems fitting that they should pause this week to salute the memory of Dr Henry Duncan, who died on February 19, just 100 years ago; for he was one of the first founders of savings banks in this country, the savings banks which have had, and continue to have, such an important place in the well-being of the people.

Dr Duncan, who was a minister of the parish of Ruthwell, in Scotland, was a lover of his fellow men, and showed this love in several practical ways. For instance, when famine was stalking through the north country, he brought Indian corn from Liverpool to alleviate the conditions.

Earlier he had given evidence of his patriotic fervour by raising a company of volunteers when Napoleon was threatening to invade these islands. In 1809 he founded and edited the Dumfries and Galloway Courier. He also published a series of popular tracts entitled *The Cottage Fireside*.

In 1810 he instituted the first savings bank in Scotland, in a cottage at Ruthwell. Convinced of the value of his project, he laboured by speech and pamphlet to make it as widely known as possible. In spite of all his great work, Henry Duncan had no reward whatsoever. But it mattered not; before his death he had the satisfaction of knowing that the savings bank had come to stay.

## Town and Gown Troubles

TO read that the number of undergraduates at Oxford University is likely to be so large this year that the authorities are at their wits' end to house them, is like turning back pages in the history of this ancient seat of learning.

In the old days before the colleges had been built there were times when the overcrowding of students was acute. Every inn, hall, hostel, and private house was crowded with young scholars and their masters, six and more occupying a single room at night. In the time of Henry the Third a great exodus of scholars from Paris University to Oxford brought many who did not seek knowledge so much as adventure, and a company of them, armed with bows and arrows, was caught slaying the King's deer in Shotover Park.

Meanwhile, the townspeople had taken advantage of the overcrowding to pay off an old score against the University by flagrant overcharges for rooms and food. The King, who had been proud to boast of the great number of students from the Continent, handed over the archers for punishment, but himself settled the question of overcharging by ordering an assessment, forbidding the burgesses to continue their exorbitant tariff, and warning them not to be so foolish as to drive away men whose custom was profitable to the town and honourable to the country at large.

## The Cinema Made Its Bow Just 50 Years Ago

OF the millions who will be visiting the cinemas this week probably very few will realise that it is only just fifty years since cinema shows began.

The first film programme which the public paid to see in London was presented by a Mr Trewey at the Polytechnic in Regent Street on February 20, 1896. There were eight films made by the Lumière brothers and shown by them about two months earlier in Paris. They showed workers leaving a factory, a train entering a station, a baby at the lunch table, the demolition of a wall, the Congress of Photographic Societies at Neuville-sur-Seine in July 1895, a game of cards, a boat leaving harbour, and what was probably the first movie comedy—a mischievous boy turning a hose on a gardener!

## The English Inventor

None of these films was more than 50 feet long, and each showed for a minute or less! But our grandparents were thrilled by the novelty and very soon other film shows were being given in London.

Although the films for London's first programme came from France the cinema was not a French invention. The idea of animated pictures had long engaged the attention of many inventors. It was actually a United States court which established the fact that the true inventor of the moving-picture camera was William Friese-Greene, an Englishman. He it was who, in 1889, invented the first moving-picture camera to take photographs on a continuous strip of film having perforated edges. As early as 1885 he had taken a series of pictures at Hyde Park Corner, using a camera with a strip of specially-prepared sensitised paper. In 1889, too, he wrote to ask Edison, who had recently invented the phonograph, to co-operate with him in making talking-pictures!

While Friese-Greene was experimenting, a man was working along almost similar lines in Yorkshire. He was Louis Aimé Augustin Le Prince, a Frenchman who had married and settled in Leeds. He had taken moving pictures with a camera having several lenses, and eventually, in 1888, he produced a camera with a single lens, and with this

camera he took pictures on Leeds Bridge. His photographic negatives were mounted on a strip of another material having perforated edges. Friese-Greene had the perforated edge on the film itself, an idea that is used to this day.

Neither of these two fathers of the cinema was to benefit from the wealthy industry which has since been built up. In fact each was the central figure in a drama as strange as any of the films have given us.

Le Prince was a business man who, had he lived, would undoubtedly have played a part in the development of the cinema. But in August, 1890, he went to France to visit his brother. At Dijon he was seen entering a train for Paris, on September 16, 1890, and from that time he completely disappeared!

Friese-Greene, a gentle, kindly soul who was never happier than when inventing something or other, was not a business man. He patented 64 inventions, yet wealth never came his way.

During Friese-Greene's life the cinema passed through the stage when it was a new wonder to the time when it was a fair-ground attraction, and then to another kind of "twopenny gaff"—usually an empty shop where the patrons stood and watched a series of very jerky images on the screen—and later into the era of the "picture palace." But he was a forgotten man.

## A Dramatic End

In the film world all was not well in 1921. So a meeting was called in London, and it was attended by leaders of the industry. After many speeches had been made an old gentleman at the back of the hall asked permission to say a few words. In a low voice which was not easily heard he begged the meeting to compose their differences.

They were the last words Friese-Greene ever spoke, for he died at that meeting, a very few minutes afterwards. His plea for peace and kindness was his last message to the world of the film which he had done so much to create, yet which to him had returned so little.



SCOTLAND

The sea-washed village of Lamlash, in the Isle of Arran



## MARTIN LUTHER'S BOYHOOD

FOUR hundred years ago this week died Martin Luther, to whom Christians everywhere owe so great a debt. For, no matter to what faith we hold, we all cherish the ideal of religious freedom for which he fought.

Who is not thrilled at the thought of Luther facing his enemies at Worms, saying, "Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen!"

This Luther was born at Eisleben, Saxony, in 1483, a poor man's son. "I am a peasant's son," he once said. "My father, my grandfather, my great-grandfather, were genuine peasants."

Martin was his mother's boy. Not only was he like her in appearance, but he had her disposition and temperament. Like her he could meet disappointment and hardship cheerfully; he loved to repeat a saying of hers. "If the world does not smile on you and me, the fault is ours."

Yet he was not a spoilt child, for discipline was harsh in the home. There is a well-known story of the boy Luther being savagely beaten by his mother for taking a nut without permission.

Martin himself, remembering his own childhood, in later life developed enlightened ideas on rod-rule. "Where such fear enters a man in childhood," he said, "it can hardly be rooted out as long as he lives. As he once trembled at every word of his father and mother, to the end of his life he is afraid of a rustling leaf."

At school the rule by fear continued, for, he admitted, he was a merry, mischievous, and high-spirited boy, and these were qualities which were not appreciated in a fifteenth-century school. But Martin Luther must have shown promise, for at 13 he was sent away to High School

at Eisenach. Here, as was the custom, he begged and sang to pay for his schooling, and his sweet, boyish voice, and attractive dark eyes won the heart of well-to-do Frau Cotta, who took him into her home.

Here, the schooling was good. The headmaster, Trebonius, used to remove his scholar's cap on entering the classroom in deference to the future mayors, doctors, and rulers who sat before him.

In such an atmosphere, Martin Luther made rapid progress, and at 17 he entered Erfurt University, where he played skilfully upon the lute, and often said in later years, "He who is musical is equal to anything."

He studied Latin, logic, theology, and metaphysics, and was particularly interested in history and biography. His comrades nicknamed him "The Philosopher" because of his skill in debate. "Do not be afraid," an elderly friend once told him; "you will live to be a great man."

When, in 1504, he obtained his Master's Degree, he was escorted through the streets of the town, along with the other successful candidates. Banners, torches, and music accompanied them.

And so Luther came to the threshold of the Great Adventure, which ended in the drawing up of the Augsburg Confession and the German Reformation. When that Adventure was over, and he lay dying on February 18, 1546, someone asked him, "Reverend Father, do you stand firm by Christ, and the doctrine you have preached?" Luther could truthfully answer, "Yes."

## Sarawak as a British Colony

THE Rajah of Sarawak in North Borneo, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, has proposed that his country should be ceded to Britain and become part of the British Empire. If the negotiations for the transfer of Sarawak to the British Crown are successful, one of the most romantic stories of the founding of a kingdom in modern Asia will come to an end.

For the present Rajah is the son of the nephew of the first Brooke, who in 1841 created a kingdom as big as England in what was then a wild land of head-hunters and pirates. This great adventurer, James Brooke, won the respect and love of the turbulent people, and he left his throne to his nephew, Charles Brooke, who carried on the same just and enlightened government until his death in 1917, when his son, the present Rajah, came to the throne.

During the war Sarawak, with the rest of Borneo, was overrun by the Japanese, and in the course of discussions in England as to its future Sir Charles suggested that he should abdicate, and after the liberation of his realm he communicated with his subjects there on the idea of their becoming part of the British Empire. The leaders of the Malay and Chinese communities in Sarawak sent back letters to say that they agreed.

Sarawak has a reserve fund of £2,750,000. This will be handed over with the kingdom, save for £1,000,000, which will be set aside for a trust fund to provide for the Rajah and his descendants and certain functionaries in Sarawak during their lifetimes. Afterwards the income from the trust fund will be used for measures designed for the progress and benefit of the people of Sarawak. If the Rajah abdicates Sarawak will become a Crown Colony.

It will be an honourable end to the splendid work of the Brooke family in this territory.

## Low Rents For Houses

THOUGH building costs are high, the Government are determined to keep rents down to a low level. To help to achieve this they will pay substantial subsidies or grants to relieve the costs of building new dwellings.

In a Housing Bill recently presented to Parliament, it is proposed that for each 100,000 dwellings the Exchequer shall pay about £2,050,000 of the taxpayers' money, while local authorities will be required to bear expenditure of £615,000 out of the rates.

The average weekly rents, exclusive of rates, on which these subsidies have been calculated by the Government, are 12s 6d for London, 10s in other urban areas, and 7s 6d in rural areas.

This Bill also provides the Minister of Health with power to set up housing associations which could come to the assistance of local authorities, if necessary, and could themselves construct houses and provide homes.

This Bill concerns England and Wales. Another Bill to provide subsidies for Scottish housing has also been introduced.



## Conversation Piece

Bill and Percy, two pelicans at the London Zoo, seem to be discussing something of importance. Perhaps they are undecided as to which shall enter the water first!

## CHAMPIONS OF FAMILY WELFARE

THE Charity Organisation Society has decided that in future it will call itself the Family Welfare Association. This change in title has been made partly because the old name tended to obscure the society's main object, which is family welfare, and also because the word "charity" is frequently misinterpreted as an act of patronising superiority.

It was 76 years ago, when England was still the England about which Charles Dickens wrote so scathingly, that the society began its work of not only helping people in distress but of acting as the guardian of charities generally, and of ensuring that only those charities which were genuine and properly conducted were recognised as worthy of the people's support.

This society built up its good work through the years, and countless are the good things it has accomplished. Its Annual Charities Register and Digest, with details of four thousand charitable institutions and organ-

isations of repute, is generally accepted as a standard book of reference on the subject.

The society has at all times been the promoter and guardian of justice and fair play, and it has stimulated movements which have led to the passing of many Acts of Parliament concerned with the social life of the people. But, all through its long life, the society's primary purpose has been to minister to families, relieving distress, and helping to solve personal problems.

It was this society which, during the war, set up 45 citizens' advice bureaux in London to help to solve the people's wartime problems, and more than a million people were thus aided.

Family welfare is the most important thing in the life of our nation, and we sincerely hope that the Family Welfare Association, as the society will now be called, will go from strength to strength as a defender of human rights and a Good Samaritan to those who are genuinely in need of help.

## The Davis Cup Again

VERY welcome indeed will be the return of Davis Cup tennis this summer, when 20 nations are challenging Australia, holders of the silver trophy since 1939, writes the CN sports correspondent.

The draw took place in Melbourne recently, and in the European Zone Great Britain is to meet France in Paris. It is unfortunate that two such great tennis-playing countries have to meet so early in the tournament, but no doubt the winner will go far towards the final games with the Cup holders. France will look forward eagerly to the games, for she is anxious to avenge the defeat sustained at Wimbledon in 1939.

A very welcome challenger is Turkey, who is competing for the first time, and the games

against Czechoslovakia will be followed with keen interest. Tennis in Turkey is believed to have been advanced by the presence of US airmen, who were interned after making forced landings. The airmen demonstrated some of the finer points of the game when playing amongst themselves, and Turkish tennis players quickly learned from experience.

It is 46 years since America beat Britain in the first Davis Cup tournament, and the donor, Dwight Davis, who died last November, was a member of the winning team. The competition aroused interest throughout the world, and other countries duly entered. Thirty years after the Davis Cup was first won nearly 40 nations were competing in this great international tournament.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Janet Learns a Lesson

ON Janet's last three birthdays Daddy had given her a pet present. First came a dear little kitten, and then a jolly lop-eared rabbit, and next a terrier puppy, and now—well, it was Janet's birthday today.

"A canary! How lovely! Then, 'Can he sing?' she asked, looking excitedly at the little yellow bird in its nice blue cage, as Daddy held out his present.

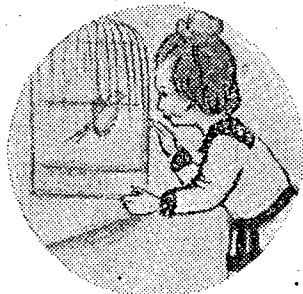
"You'll soon hear him," he said, and then he told Janet how to care for her new pet.

"I'll look after him, Daddy," said Janet confidently. "I'll never forget him." And in return for all she did for him, Dick, as she chose to call him, chirped and trilled all day.

Sometimes, with puss safely out of the way and the window shut, Daddy would let Dick fly round the room, but told Janet never to let the little bird out herself.

When she was alone one day, Janet began to wonder why she was not to let Dick out of his cage—surely, if she were very careful, it wouldn't matter?

She shut the door and the window, and looked all round to make sure puss was not



there. Then she opened Dick's cage. With a happy chirrup out flew the little bird and perched on the window seat. Janet stood still and watched.

Suddenly there was a scuffling sound and puss, who had been under the couch hidden by the cover, pounced upon Dick. Janet rushed to help, but it was too late—there lay her beautiful canary, dead.

"It wasn't pussy's fault, it was her nature," was all Daddy said when he heard, but Janet understood.

She was sad every time she looked at the empty cage, but one day when she came home from school Dick's home was vacant no longer. Daddy had decided that she had been punished enough and had bought her another canary.



The Children's Newspaper, February 23, 1946

# UNO'S HOME IN THE NEW WORLD

THE New England States of America are so truly linked with the idea of Liberty that few areas on our globe are more worthy to be the permanent abode of the United Nations Organisation for the preservation of World peace.

The quiet and beautiful countryside of New England, 40 miles north-east of New York city, has been proposed as the setting for the home of Uno. The site consists of 42 square miles of hillside, woodland, little lakes, farmland, and orchards not far inland from the two old towns of Stamford and Greenwich on the shore of Long Island Sound. Most of the site lies in the State of Connecticut (pronounced Connettycut), and one-third of it is in Westchester county in New York State. There are no towns or villages included in the site.

It seems an ideal situation for the Home of the Peacekeepers; near one of the world's most important cities, close to the Westchester county airport—which may be included in the site—and yet with surroundings of quiet natural beauty and magnificent views over the Sound. Greenwich (though our Greenwich) is a name associated with a long-established world-agreement in time-keeping.

The coastal district is New York's breathing ground. To bright green-shuttered houses, with their own landing-stages, in the willow-fringed bays near Greenwich and Stamford come people from New York in

summertime to enjoy a week-end of yachting on the Sound.

Inland the country is strangely like England, with cosy neat farmhouses standing out clear and clean against the green fields. Some of the old houses date back to the times when Connecticut was a British Colony.

For Connecticut, less than two-thirds the size of Wales, was one of the first areas in the U.S. to be colonised by white men. A few Dutchmen came first, then English Puritan pioneers came down from the neighbouring colony of Massachusetts and thenceforward outnumbered the Dutchmen. They were sternly devout men and women who in their new colony established a form of Government in which the Bible was the supreme guide in all matters, civil and religious.

Stamford, which today has a population of 65,000, began in 1640 when Captain Nathaniel Turner bought the land from an Indian chief named Ponus. In the same year Daniel Patrick and Robert Feaks gave the Indians 25 coats for the land on which the smaller town of Greenwich now stands.

In Westchester county, too, there is the same story of English penetration into a Dutch territory, but the English colonists here seem to have been of a different religious persuasion from those in Connecticut, for we read that in 1693 the Episcopal clergy (Church of England) in Westchester were supported by public funds. By the 18th century life in the colony had become very settled, and the life of the gentleman farmer tended towards the comfort and culture of his equals in old England.

Today Westchester county is another of New York's playlands. It has recreation parks set amid delightful scenery, many public golf courses, and very wide motor roads through landscaped parkways leading into New York city.

It is fitting that Uno's home should be in this historic corner of America; for the Puritans who founded these states, though often narrow-minded, were the originators of that intensely moral outlook on life which has developed into the modern enthusiasm for World Peace.

## All Together!

Youth Club Songs, by Sid Hedges (Pilgrim Press, 2s 6d).

WHEN high-spirited youngsters get together they like to sing, and Mr Hedges, who knows all about Youth Clubs, deserves their thanks for this little book; it fills a need.

It contains 74 community songs, some of them old favourites and others likely to become new favourites; and with its aid, whenever a sing-song is indicated, any club should be able to let itself go, raising the roof to the tune of Clementine, John Brown's Body, and many another irresistible ditty, until everyone, hoarse but happy, agrees that it's time for Auld Lang Syne.

# An Empire Architect

ONE of the most distinguished of all modern British architects passed away the other day in his native village of Cobham in Kent—in the lovely house of Charles the Second's day which a few years ago he presented to the National Trust.

Sir Herbert Baker was one of Kent's great men; but he belonged to the British Empire. He began his career in London, but he went to South Africa in 1892 and there met Cecil Rhodes. The warm friendship that grew up between them proved one of the most important influences in his long life. He rebuilt Rhodes's house, Groote Schuur, he designed the Rhodes Memorial on Table Mountain, he built Rhodes House at Oxford, which embodies the great man's noblest dream. In later years he wrote a notable memoir of Rhodes.

Sir Herbert Baker's contribution to South African architecture is a truly remarkable one, including, as it does, the Government Buildings and cathedral at Pretoria, and the cathedrals of Cape Town and Johannesburg. He also built the cathedral at Salisbury in Rhodesia, and the Government Houses at Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya.

In India he contributed to the grandeur of New Delhi, a work he shared with another great architect, and one who had been associated with him during his apprenticeship long years before—Sir Edwin Lutyens.

In London, Capital of the Empire, the outstanding examples of Sir Herbert Baker's genius are South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, India House in Aldwych, and the Bank of England, the last building being a triumph in the most difficult art of blending old and new.

With Sir Herbert Baker's passing the British Empire has lost one of its most distinguished sons; but he has left a mark of nobility which will endure.

## A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

IN one respect such a gathering as the United Nations Assembly, if held in bygone centuries, would have been easier to the majority of delegates than now. There would have been less need of interpreters, for all scholars in the past spoke and wrote Latin; wherever they met they had a common tongue. Studies at the various universities were conducted in Latin, and students were compelled, within the university precincts, to converse in that tongue. Latin, not then a dead tongue, was indeed a universal language.

All our learning, like the Bible, was written in Latin; and scholars, down to the time of Samuel Johnson, could not believe that English was a sufficiently enduring language to entrust matters of grave moment to it. The original Utopia, for instance, Sir Thomas More's famous book describing an imaginary ideal State, was published abroad in Latin, so that scholars in every European country read it, and secured it; a success equal to that of the most popular of modern "best sellers." Thirty-five years passed before it was translated into English, 16 years after More's death.

# EGYPT IS ASKING FOR THE SUDAN

BRITAIN has agreed to open negotiations for the revision of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, the terms of which Egypt has so loyally carried out; and an Egyptian cabinet minister has stated that his Government will ask for the withdrawal of all British troops from their country and the restoration to her of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

The Sudan is the vast land of a million square miles and about six million people of different races which lies south of Egypt. Through it flows the ancient Nile on which Egypt from time immemorial has depended for her water supply and the irrigation of her crops.

At one time this enormous, partly desert, sparsely inhabited region was an Egyptian province, but in 1882 a madman styled the Mahdi led a host of fanatics called Dervishes to drive out the Egyptians and to slay our noble General Gordon, who had gone to Khartoum on behalf of the Egyptian Government. After years of misrule by the Mahdi's successor, during which hundreds of thousands of Sudanese perished, the Dervishes were conquered at the Battle of Omdurman by General Kitchener, in 1898, and this great territory was thenceforward ruled jointly by Britain and Egypt. Under British guidance the Sudan has become peaceful and advanced in prosperity.

Varied are the peoples who inhabit this wild land, from the sophisticated Moslem traders, coppersmiths and silversmiths of Arab descent in the north, to the naked, black pagans of the lion-haunted south. There are the wandering Bisharin people who roam with their camels from

oasis to oasis, even as far north as Cairo. In the south are tall war-like Shilluks and the primitive, slender Dinkas who in their birthday suits are not worried about coupons. There are fierce but good-humoured Fuzzy-Wuzzies (a name given them by British soldiers) of the Red Sea region with their startling hair styles, affable grins, and characteristic pose of standing on one leg and resting on a spear. Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem in praise of their prowess as warriors.

These are some of the peoples of whom modern Egypt hopes to make Egyptian citizens, and it must be acknowledged that the rulers of Egypt today are very different from those who conquered the Sudanese in the last century.

## The Release of Industry

FROM May 4, all the 2,750,000 workers in the engineering industry will be free to choose other jobs, if they wish; the Government Order controlling them is to be withdrawn.

This important industrial move is to be followed quickly by the release of other industries from control, and by the end of May probably only 2,500,000 workers (in coalmining, building, and agriculture) will remain affected by the Essential Work Orders.

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Phillips' Dental Magnesia

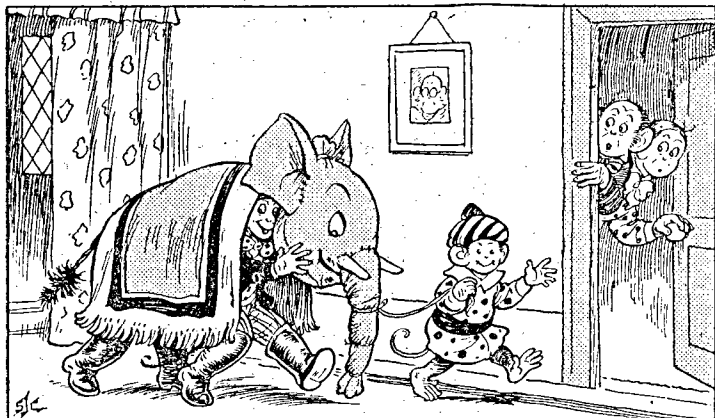
Regd.

\* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.



# THE BRAN TUB

## Baby Jacko the Elephant Boy



WITH brown paper Jacko and Chimp made a realistic elephant's head. Jacko became the front legs and Chimp the hind ones, they put a rug over themselves, and used a feather duster for a tail. Baby Jacko, in disguise, led them along. When Father and Mother Jacko heard a squealing in the hall they looked out and got a terrific shock. "Goodness, an Indian boy with a baby elephant. How ever did he get in here?" gasped Father.

### PASSENGER SERVICE

"LADDIE," said the experienced lumberman to the new hand who was helping to cut some huge logs with a cross-saw, "you're quite welcome to ride on the saw, but if you don't mind it will be a lot easier for me if you keep your feet off the ground."

### Catch Riddle

WHAT is that that will go up a chimney down but not down a chimney up, or down a pipe down but not up a pipe up, yet when it has gone down and up a pipe will still go up or down?

### FEEBLE FEMALE

THERE was a young maiden of Poole  
Who often played truant from school,  
"For learning," said she,  
"Is of no use to me,  
I'm too much of a dunce and a fool."

## Here is a NEW MODELLING CLAY with many advantages

Chromocine is the newest and best modelling clay. It never goes dry or sticky, but remains smooth and malleable indefinitely. It is mixed with an antiseptic to avoid all risk of carrying germs and infections. Chromocine modelling clay is sold in three styles, SLAB—1/6d. per lb. pack, RIBBED—2/2d. per large pack, and individual sticks—6d. each. Range of EIGHT COLOURS.

## 'CHROMOCINE' ANTISEPTIC MODELLING CLAY

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**CHROMOCINE LTD.**  
36, Upper Berkeley St., London, W.1

### Tongue Twister

A CUP of proper coffee from a copper coffee pot is a proper cup of coffee from a coffee copper pot.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Repairs in the Rookery. In the swaying elm tops many dark clumps indicated the presence of a Rookery. The harsh cries of the birds filled the air.

"Surely it's too early for them to nest yet," remarked Don to Farmer Gray.

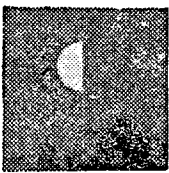
"They are repairing their nests in readiness," was the reply.

"It looks as though they're pulling them to pieces," said Don.

"The sticks which they remove have rotted," explained the farmer. "Rook nests are so exposed to the elements that they demand careful attention. Rooks are highly intelligent birds, and each year they overhaul their homes, rebuilding them, and thus making the original nest last for many years."

### Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south, Uranus is in the south-west, and Jupiter low in the east. The picture shows the moon at 5.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 23.



### Propping It Up

"I WONDER what keeps the moon from falling," said little Sally, looking out of the bedroom window.

"Stupid!" said her twin brother. "Why, the beams, of course."

## The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, February 20, to Tuesday, February 26.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Postman's Knock—a play. 5.30 Animals All at Sea. 5.50 Prayers. North, 5.0 Neville and the Magic Violin. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Discussion on Hobbies; followed by the Boyd Endowment Girls' Choir.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Treasure Island (Part 1). Welsh, 5.0 Nutmeg, Ginger, Cinnamon, and Mace—a story; followed by The Voice of Banti Meredith—a play.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Magic Dressing Case; followed by Serenade for Children. North, 5.0 Wandering With Nomad; followed by Records by Request.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense; and Pencil and Paper.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Nottingham Castle. Scottish, 5.0 Castles of Scotland—Culzean. 5.50 Prayers.

MONDAY, 5.0 Songs by Frederick Harvey; followed by

Popocatepetl's Circus—a story. 5.30 Sports Bee—question-master, F. N. S. Creek. North, 5.0 The Week's Programmes; followed by A Nursery Sing-Song. 5.25 Another Matilda Mouse Story; followed by a topical talk. Northern Ireland, 5.25 Peter Comes in From the Farm; followed by I Want To Be An Actor. Scottish, 5.0 A Tinker's Tale. 5.30 Your Own Ideas.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy Winkle; followed by gramophone records; and Some Dogs and a Couple of Cats, by Brian Stuart. 5.40 Talk on World Affairs. Midland, 5.0 Somnolent Samuel; followed by music; What's Going On in the Country; songs by Kenneth Tudor; and First Out of the Hat—how the Cup-ties are drawn. North, 5.0 Young Artists; followed by a Stamp talk. Scottish, 5.0 Nicht-nocht-naething—a play. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh.

### DUMB MUSIC

HERE'S fun for a crowd or a forfeit game for a party.

One is appointed conductor—the rest are the orchestra, each making a show of playing some instrument, such as piano, drum, trumpet, fiddle, and so on.

Suddenly the leader must stop conducting and pretend to play one of the instruments—for instance, the piano—when the pianist must immediately stand up and conduct.

The new conductor must in his turn change to an instrument, and the quicker the game is played the more fun and the more forfeits.

### Spring Promenade

CAN February March? No, but April May in June.

### LEISURELY

"IT'S half an hour since I ordered that turtle soup!" exclaimed the customer, whose patience was getting exhausted.

"Sorry, sir," replied the waiter, "but you know how slow turtles are."

### In the Bookshop

CUSTOMER: Have you Horace Walpole's Letters, please?

New Young Assistant: Sorry, sir, but the post office is on the other side of the street.

### LOST PROPERTY

THERE was a young lady called Bella,  
By her absence of mind you could tell her,  
For in train, bus or park,  
In daylight or dark,  
On a seat she would leave her umbrella.

### T Riddles

WHY does T upset the heavens?  
Because it makes every star start.

Why is T like an island?  
Because it is in the middle of water.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Number, Please

No. 6. There were eight flats.  
Catch Arithmetic

Tenpence (sixpence, a three-pennybit and a penny), each to be given to a grandfather, his son, and his grandson.

C	S	S	C	H	O	L	A	R
A	C	T	U	A	R	I	A	
M	O	O	R	E	R	A		
P	A	P	E	R	E	L	F	
E	T	S	A	P	C	O		
D	E	E	M	A	Y	O	R	
D	A	M	C	O	V	E		
B	R	E	V	E	R	E	S	
E	N	S	N	A	R	E	T	

## SAVINGS RHYMES



Old King Cole was a wise old soul  
Deep in his pocket he dug  
To save more money week by week  
And diddle the Squander Bug.

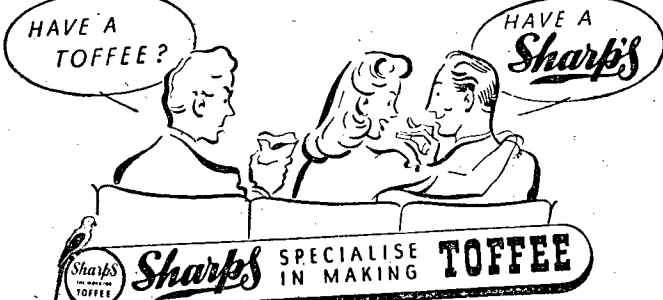
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